Clifton Precision and the Apollo 11 Moon Flight
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I thought I did not have any personal ties to Clifton Heights, other than that I hike through the area sometimes. I grew up in Ridley. My family all lived south of Baltimore Pike. My grandparents (both sets) lived in Folcroft.

While looking through my camera roll to see if I had any "Clifton Heights" records, an old screenshot of a text my Mom sent me that I had screen-shotted several years ago popped up. In the text, my Mom said my Grandmom, Teresa Mallamas (née Rao/Ross, 1915–2002), worked at Clifton Precision.

I seemed to remember I had my Grandmom's badge with items passed down to me, but I wasn't sure what the place of employment was on the badge.

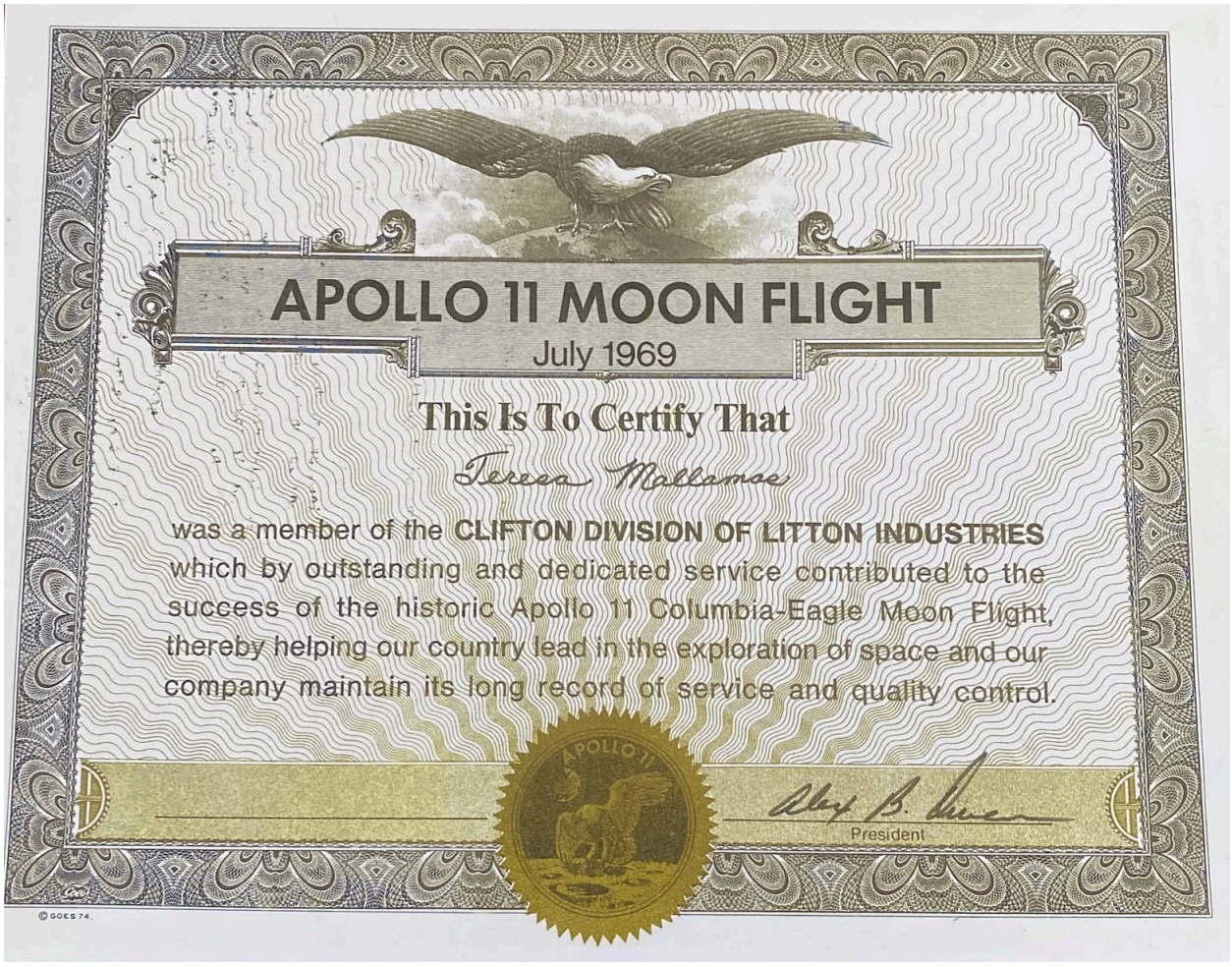
So, I went digging through my items to find the badge, and found her badge was with Clifton Precision! She worked several jobs, so I couldn't remember what her badge said. She must have worked there in the 1960s, during the Cold War/Space Race era.

My mom jokingly wrote in the text, "My mother was a stripper at Clifton Precision!" But in reality, a "stripper" was an incredibly delicate and highly skilled electronics job. My grandmom stripped the insulation coating off ultra-fine wires thinner than a human hair, which were then used in advanced aerospace and defense electronics. Her work was connected to the Apollo space program. In fact,

following the Apollo 11 mission in July 1969, my grandmom received a certificate from the company recognizing her “outstanding and dedicated service” and her contribution to the success of the historic Apollo 11 Columbia/Eagle Moon Flight.

My grandmother did not drive, lived in Folcroft, and was a very tiny woman, at only about 4 feet 9 inches. Clifton Precision was located all the way over on Broadway Avenue in Clifton Heights, across from the Clam Tavern. I do not know how she got back and forth to work. Many women worked in this department. I am not certain if it was an “all female” department, but I do question if possibly petite women with small hands were sought after for this intricate job. My grandmother was a hairdresser and waitress, so I do not know how she ended up with Clifton Precision. She had no training for the type of work performed there, so she must have received “on the job” training.

I am glad to see I have a personal tie to an area I hike through sometimes. It is also pretty incredible to think that women right here in Delaware County were doing this intricate work during the Space Race and contributed, in their own way, to putting men on the Moon. My grandmom, Teresa Mallamas, was one of those women.


APOLLO 11 MOON FLIGHT
July 1969
This Is To Certify That
Teresa Mallamas
was a member of the CLIFTON DIVISION OF LITTON INDUSTRIES
which by outstanding and dedicated service contributed to the
success of the historic Apollo 11 Columbia-Eagle Moon Flight,
thereby helping our country lead in the exploration of space and our
company maintain its long record of service and quality control.
APOLLO 11
President
©GOES 74.

My grandmother’s certificate.

Mom 🥰
Tell her my mother was a stripper atClifton precision in Clifton heights. That ought to give her food for thought. My mother was the best stripper they hadn't lol. A strippers job is to strip the coating off of wires less than the thickness of a human hair. Those thinly thin wires were then used by NASA in rocket ships to the moon and beyond. A very important job, but after years, it had to be tedious. She got some sort of acknowledgment document for all her effort, but no raise! My mom, the stripper Hahaha!
M

Text sent to me by my late mother, Veronica “Vicki” Seitz (née Mallamas, 1942–2023)